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Federal Communication Commission
Electronic Comment Filing System (via FCC web site)
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Subject: Comment on proposed AT&T and DirecTV Merger

I, and many other US consumers, have concerns with the ATT and DirecTV merger. These concerns deal with sustaining a competitive marketplace for Internet and DTV (digital TV) services. Industry trends appear to be clearly indicating that DTV services are evolving to delivery via the Internet and/or its technologies. Over the Top (OTT) delivery of Content to DTV subscribers via Internet Technologies appears to facilitate a truly competitive Content market environment that has been historically constrained by Broadcast, Cable and Satellite TV market environments of limited franchises, limited spectrum, required deep financial pockets, etc. for Content delivery.

Well-conceived Net Neutrality laws, rules, and practices appear essential to support long term competitive market environments. Historically, communication markets have evolved to monopoly, often regulated, environments. Hopefully we will be sufficiently creative in our in-development Net Neutrality Laws and legislation to create long-term competitive environments that attracts capital investments. My concerns are that Internet Technologies, features, performances, costs, etc. are rapidly evolving. Net Neutrality Laws should be created that will encourage rapid, lower cost, competitive deployments of evolving technologies and services, and not be based on historical monopoly-based decision processes that typically increase costs and inhibit achievable market potentials.

My fear is that the ATT and DirecTV merger is a continuing step in evolving to a long-term monopoly environment instead of the desirable competitive market environment. Net Neutrality Laws should support a long-term competitive market environment. My impression is that a significant AT&T strength is its government lobbying skills. My request to the FCC and other responsible Government entities: Please do not support this merger unless you are convinced that it is structured to ensure that functional long-term competitive environments will be nurtured and sustained. We want competition, not monopolies!!!

Thank you.

Respectively,
Jim Gunn